

## AUGUSTUS HUMBERT ASH-TRAY

Augustus Humbert is listed in San Francisco Directories for 1852 as U. S. Assayer; In 1854 he is styled "late U. S. Assayer." In 1856 he was a member of the firm of (John G.) Kellogg & Humbert, Assayers; an association which lasted, according to the Directories, through 1859. In 1860 he drops from the Directory listings, and the firm becomes Kellogg & Hewston.

A check of the Alta California (newspaper) for the first half of 1860 turned up the dissolution of the partnership of Kellogg & Humbert. The account is noted in the April 2, 1860, issue, page 1, column 4, and notes Humbert's replacement by Dr. Hewston and a Mr. Sterns.

Humbert is reported, June 5, 1860, page 1, column 1, of the same newspaper, as departing for the East aboard the vessel Golden Age. The notice characterizes him as "an old citizen and a most estimable gentleman."

On the chance that the Directories might turn up some clue as to the occasion of the presentation, they were checked for the years indicated below with the results set forth:

- 1854 Kellogg & Richter, assayers (J. G. Kellogg),  
106 Montgomery St.
- 1856 Kellogg & Humbert, Assayers,  
104 Montgomery St.  
Simons, Louis, Attorney, but see below 1859.  
Sherman, Frank, mason, and see below 1859.
- 1859 Lyon, Worthington S., at Kellogg & Humbert  
Robbins, Chas., with Kellogg & Humbert  
Kellogg, James, melter, 108 Montgomery St. (melter of gold?)  
Simons, L.C., with Kellogg & Humbert  
Ilse, Wm. Chemist, U. S. Branch Mint  
Sherman, Frank, 108 Montgomery St.  
Creighton, R., 108 Montgomery St.
- 1860 Crayton, Robert, with Kellogg, Hewston & Co.

I would conclude from the above that those who presented the ashtray were either actually in the firm of K & H, and/or were in occupations closely associated with it, and that the presentation was probably made upon the occasion of his leaving the firm.